

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SAJ-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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R 151415 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8771

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, VN, LA

SUBJECT: PROMINENT BUT CONTRASTING TREATMENT OF SOVIET TALKS
WITH LE DUC THO, PATHET LAO DELEGATION

1. SUMMARY: MAY 15 PRAVDA GAVE PROMINENCE TO TALKS WHICH SOVIET PARTY LEADERS HELD WITH PATHET LAO DELEGATION (IN USSR SINCE MAY 8) AND LE DUC THO (PASSING THROUGH MOSCOW EN ROUTE TO PARIS). ACCOUNTS OF BOTH MEETINGS PORTRAYED USSR AS STAUNCH FRIEND PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE, RECONSTRUCTION AND OBSERVANCE OF AGREEMENTS, BUT LAO MEETINGS WAS DESCRIBED WITH GREATER WARMTH THAN ONE WITH LE DUC THO.

2. PRAVDA FRONT PAGED REPORT OF MEETING PREVIOUS DAY BETWEEN LE DUC THO AND POLITBURO MEMBER KIRILENKO AND PARTY SECRETARY KATUSHEV DURING THO' S STOPOVER EN ROUTE TO PARIS FOR MEETING WITH KISSINGER. IN " EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" THO REPORTEDLY INFORMED SOVIET SIDE OF US/ RVN VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT AND CONTINUING ATTACKS ON PRG FORCES AND AREAS. KIRILENKO REPORTEDLY SPOKE TO THO ABOUT THE APRIL PLENUM, SOVIET INTERNAL AND FOREIGN POLICIES, USSR' S
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CONTINUED SUPPORT OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND PEACE IN INDOCHINA, AND STRICT OBSERVANCE OF PARIS AGREEMENT. TALKS DESCRIBED AS "FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL" WITH CC OFFICIAL RAKHMANIN AND DEPUTY FONMIN FIRYUBIN ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

3. PRAVDA CARRIED COMMUNIQUE ON MAY 14 MEETING BETWEEN PATHET LAO DELEGATION HEADED BY NUKHAN FUMSAVAN (PHONETIC) AND PARTY LEADERS SUSLOV, PONOMAREV AND USTINOV. IN CONTRAST TO THO MEETING, LAO TALKS DESCRIBED AS " COMRADELY AND FRATERNAL," WITH LAO SIDE EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR EFFECTIVE SOVIET SUPPORT. SOVIET SIDE STATED DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL, INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC, NEUTRAL, UNIFIED, AND PROSPEROUS LAOS. IT WELCOMED VIENTIANE AGREEMENT, COMPLIMENTED LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT ON CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE, AND PROMISED SUPPORT IN DAYS OF PEACE AS IN TIME OF WAR. BOTH SIDES NOTED NEED FOR NATIONAL CONCORD IN LAOS AND STRICT OBSERVANCE OF BOTH VIENTIANE AND PARIS AGREEMENTS, AND WELCOMED EXPANSION OF CPSU- PLF TIES.

4. COMMENT: TREATMENT OF PATHET LAO VISIT DISTINCTLY WARMER THAN COOL AND BUSINESSLIKE ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THO, WHERE TWO SIDES SEEMINGLY ON DIFFERENT WAVELENGTHS AND CONCERNED WITH DIFFERENT PROBLEMS. APPARENT SOVIET DESIRE FOR END TO FIGHTING AND LAOS AND CREATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN EARLIER PRESS ARTICLES DURING VISIT OF PATHET LAO DELEGATION.
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